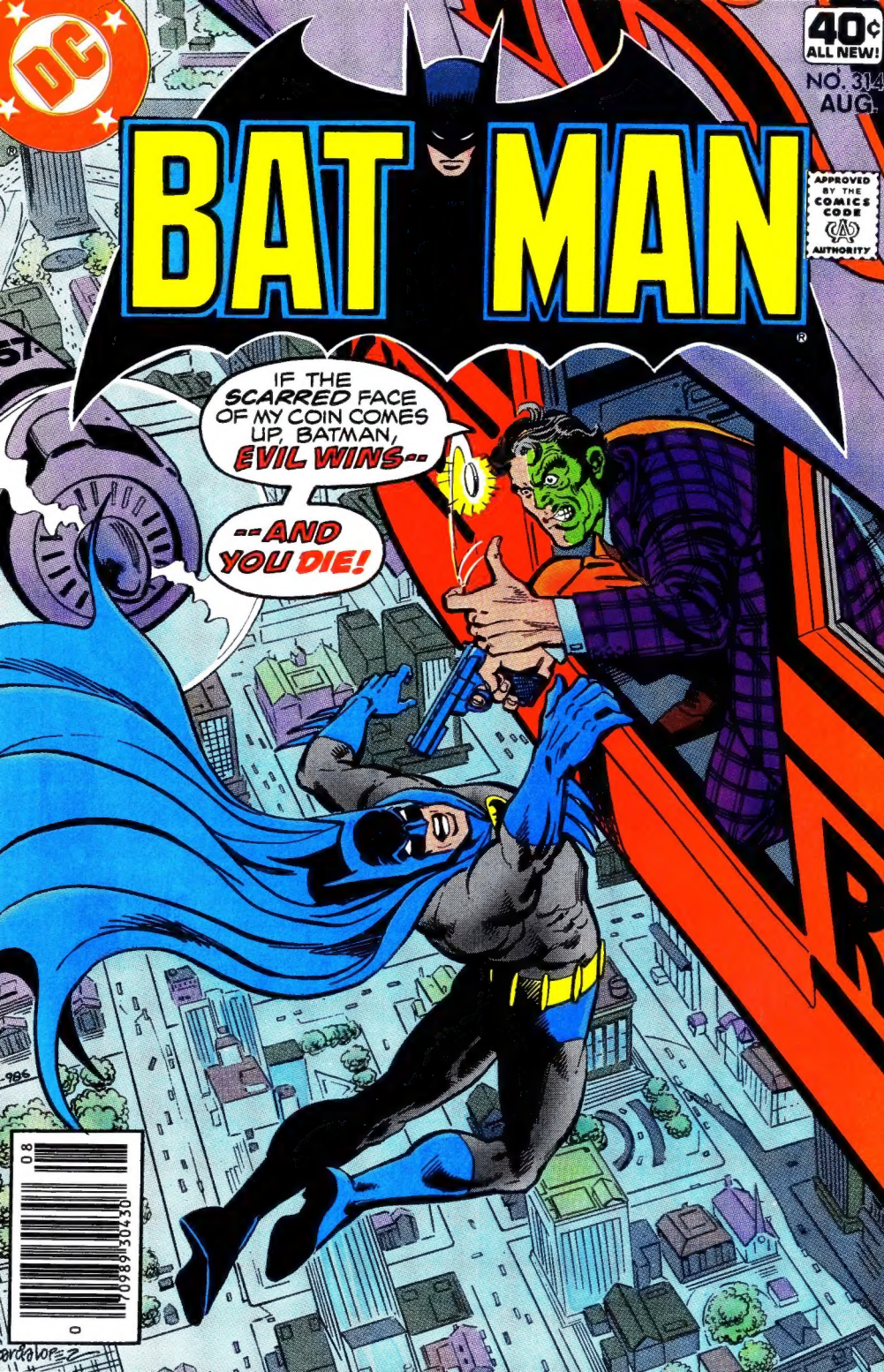
DC
40¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 314
AUG.
BAT MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IF THE SCARRED FACE OF MY COIN COMES UP, BATMAN, EVIL WINS--
--AND YOU DIE!

Like O.J., kids too need the extra step when they're on the spot. And that's what they get in Spot-bilt. For football. For soccer. For baseball. For any sport played on natural turf.

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ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...
BATMAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
THE FRENCH CALL IT FAT TUESDAY, BUT IN FESTIVE NEW ORLEANS -- WHERE IT HAS BECOME AN ANNUAL PHENOMENON -- THEY SIMPLY CALL IT MARDI GRAS!
THE CITY ITSELF WAS FOUNDED IN 1718 BY ONE JEAN BAPTISTE LE MOYNE, WHO CAME SEARCHING FOR AN INLAND WATER ROUTE -- BUT THE MASKED MANHUNTER WHO HAS COME HERE TONIGHT IS INVOLVED IN A SEARCH OF A DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT SORT...
...A SEARCH FOR A SECRET SO DANGEROUS, IT CAN DESTROY THIS ENTIRE NATION!
ONCE BEATEN, TWICE SLY!
LEN WEIN WRITER
IRV NOVICK PENCILLER
FRANK McLAUGHLIN, INKER
GLYNIS WEIN COLORIST
T. KLEIN LETTERER
PAUL LEVITZ, EDITOR
XXX RUM
1

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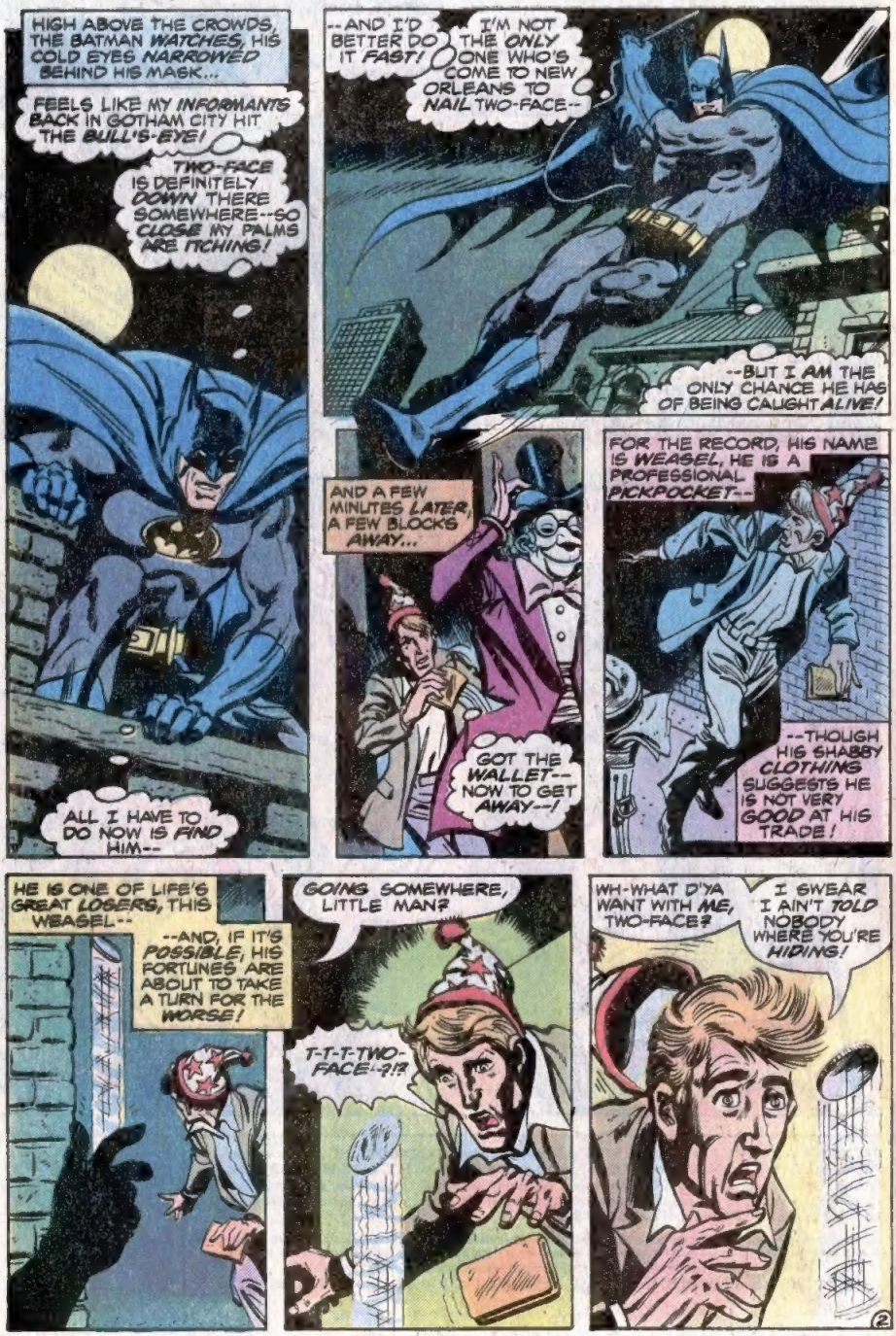
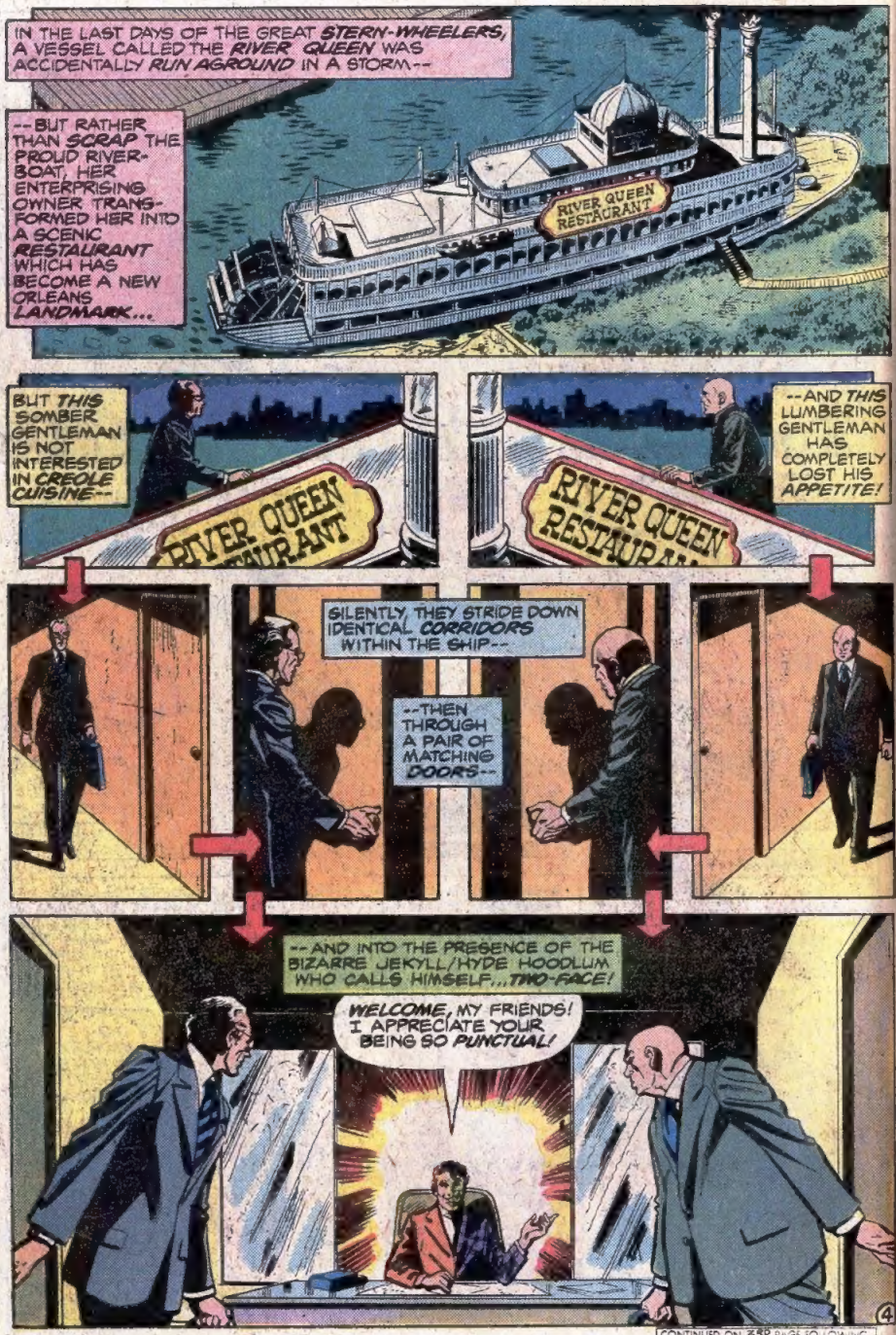

HIGH ABOVE THE CROWDS, THE BATMAN WATCHES, HIS COLD EYES NARROWED BEHIND HIS MASK...
FEELS LIKE MY INFORMANTS BACK IN GOTHAM CITY HIT THE BULL'S-EYE!
TWO-FACE IS DEFINITELY DOWN THERE SOMEWHERE--SO CLOSE MY PALMS ARE ITCHING!
ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS FIND HIM--
--AND I'D BETTER DO IT FAST!
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S COME TO NEW ORLEANS TO NAIL TWO-FACE--
--BUT I AM THE ONLY CHANCE HE HAS OF BEING CAUGHT ALIVE!
AND A FEW MINUTES LATER, A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...
GOT THE WALLET--NOW TO GET AWAY--!
FOR THE RECORD, HIS NAME IS WEASEL, HE IS A PROFESSIONAL PICKPOCKET--
--THOUGH HIS SHABBY CLOTHING SUGGESTS HE IS NOT VERY GOOD AT HIS TRADE!
HE IS ONE OF LIFE'S GREAT LOSERS, THIS WEASEL--
--AND, IF IT'S POSSIBLE, HIS FORTUNES ARE ABOUT TO TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE!
GOING SOMEWHERE, LITTLE MAN?
T-T-T-TWO-FACE--?!?
WH-WHAT D'YA WANT WITH ME, TWO-FACE?
I SWEAR I AIN'T TOLD NOBODY WHERE YOU'RE HIDING!
2

WRONG, LITTLE MAN--YOU'RE ABOUT TO TELL ME!
CRIPES--NO! THE B-B-BATMAN!
--SLOW DOWN, WEASEL YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
UNNHH!!
CLUNK!
AT LEAST, NOT UNTIL AFTER WE HAVE A LITTLE TALK!
WHO KNOWS--MAYBE WE'LL EVEN CURE YOUR STUTTERING PROBLEM!
ANYTHIN', BATMAN--I'LL TELL YA ANYTHIN' YOU WANNA KNOW!
AFTER THE WOEBEGONE WEASEL HAS DONE PRECISELY THAT...
YOU LEAVIN', BATMAN?
YOU'VE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE, WEASEL!
NOW BE A GOOD BOY--AND RETURN THAT STOLEN WALLET!
H-HE'S GONE! CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE GOTTEN OFF THAT EASY!
THE REASON FOR THAT IS SIMPLE, WEASEL--
--YOU HAVEN'T!
AW, NO! NOT AGAIN?!
WH-WH-WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU?
THE NAME'S KING FARADAY, PUNK--I'M A GOVERNMENT AGENT!
WELL, WHADDAYA WANT OUTA ME?
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT YOU TOLD THE BATMAN, PUNK--
--AND I'M NOT NEARLY SO NICE ABOUT THE WAY I GET ANSWERS!
D-D-DON'T WORRY, MISTER! THEY'RE YOURS!
3


IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE GREAT STERN-WHEELERS, A VESSEL CALLED THE RIVER QUEEN WAS ACCIDENTALLY RUN AGROUND IN A STORM--
--BUT RATHER THAN SCRAP THE PROUD RIVER-BOAT, HER ENTERPRISING OWNER TRANSFORMED HER INTO A SCENIC RESTAURANT WHICH HAS BECOME A NEW ORLEANS LANDMARK...
RIVER QUEEN RESTAURANT
BUT THIS SOMBER GENTLEMAN IS NOT INTERESTED IN CREOLE CUISINE--
RIVER QUEEN RESTAURANT
--AND THIS LUMBERING GENTLEMAN HAS COMPLETELY LOST HIS APPETITE!
SILENTLY, THEY STRIDE DOWN IDENTICAL CORRIDORS WITHIN THE SHIP--
--THEN THROUGH A PAIR OF MATCHING DOORS--
--AND INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE BIZARRE JEKYLL/HYDE HOODLUM WHO CALLS HIMSELF... TWO-FACE!
WELCOME, MY FRIENDS! I APPRECIATE YOUR BEING SO PUNCTUAL!
4
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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10 grapes	___

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You can blow lots of different big, juicy, fun bubbles.

Find:	Check:
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2 bubble gum bubbles	___

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TWO-FACE, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?
AND WHY SHOULDN'T YOU BOTH BE HERE, MY FRIENDS?
YOU ARE, AFTER ALL, BOTH BIDDING ON THE SELFSAME ITEM, AREN'T YOU?
BAH! THE GLORIOUS PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY WILL DOUBLE WHATEVER THE DECADENT UNITED STATES HAS OFFERED YOU FOR THE STOLEN BINARY CODE!
AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER, MR. KORSAKOFF -- BUT I CANNOT ACCEPT!
I TOLD BOTH YOUR COUNTRY AND THE U.S.A. THAT I WOULD TURN OVER THE MISSILE DEFENSE CODE I STOLE FOR 22 MILLION DOLLARS --
-- AND THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT I MEANT!
BUT IF WE CAN'T OUTBID ONE ANOTHER, HOW WILL YOU DECIDE WHICH OF US ACTUALLY GETS THE CODE?
AS I DECIDE ALL THINGS -- WITH A FLIP OF MY TWO-HEADED COIN!
CLEAN SIDE UP AND YOU GET IT -- SCARRED SIDE UP AND IT GOES TO THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY!
WELL, GET ON WITH IT THEN! WE HAVE WASTED ENOUGH TIME!
PATIENCE, MR. KORSAKOFF -- WE WILL COMPLETE OUR TRANSACTION LATER TONIGHT AS PRE-ARRANGED!
RIVER QUEEN RESTAURANT
YOU WILL EACH BRING ALONG THE MONEY THEN -- AND I WILL BRING THE CODE!
IF YOU INSIST, TWO-FACE -- BUT BEWARE!
BETTER MEN THAN YOU HAVE ATTEMPTED TO BETRAY US -- AND THEY HAVE PAID FOR THEIR FOLLY WITH THEIR LIVES!
PERHAPS, MR. KORSAKOFF -- BUT NONE OF THOSE UNFORTUNATES WAS TWO-FACE!
AND THE MADMAN'S BELLOWING LAUGHTER IS A TERRIBLE SOUND INDEED!

WHILE IN GOTHAM CITY, AT THE GLEAMING WAYNE FOUNDATION...
COULD YOU PLEASE TELL MR. WAYNE SELINA KYLE IS HERE TO SEE HIM?
I'M SORRY--BUT MR. WAYNE WAS CALLED OUT OF TOWN RATHER SUDDENLY ON URGENT BUSINESS!
CAN I TAKE A MESSAGE?
WELL, HE AND I HAD A DATE THIS EVENING, BUT I SUPPOSE--
EXCUSE ME... MS. KYLE?
I DOUBT YOU KNOW ME--BUT MY NAME IS LUCIUS FOX! I'M ONE OF MR. WAYNE'S ASSOCIATES.
OF COURSE, MR. FOX--BRUCE HAS TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU.
AS HE'S TOLD ME ABOUT YOU. WHY DON'T WE GO TO MY OFFICE AND CHAT?
THANKS --I'D LIKE THAT.
I MUST SAY THAT YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY I'D IMAGINED YOU, MS. KYLE. FROM YOUR DOSSIER, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE MORE--
FROM MY--WHAT?!?
FROM YOUR DOSSIER--THE ONE BRUCE ASKED ME TO COMPILE WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO HIM! I ASSUMED YOU KNEW ABOUT IT.
I KNEW NOTHING OF THE KIND!
WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO POKE AROUND IN MY LIFE THAT WAY?
YOU USED TO BE THE CATWOMAN, MS. KYLE--A CONVICTED FELON! BRUCE WAYNE IS A CLOSE FRIEND --AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE HIM USED!
THE BRUCE WAYNE I KNOW COULDN'T BE USED!
GOOD-BYE, MR. FOX--I CAN'T SAY IT'S BEEN NICE TALKING TO YOU!
OUCH.
LUCIUS MY BOY, SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU JUST OPENED THAT GOLDEN MOUTH OF YOURS--AND STUCK BOTH FEET IN UP TO THE KNEE!
SLAM!

BACK ABOARD THE RIVER QUEEN, THE MAN WHO HAD ONCE BEEN DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARVEY DENT, BEFORE ACID HIDEOUSLY SCARRED HIM, SITS GLOATING...
THE POMPOUS FOOLS--PLAYING THEIR PETTY GAMES OF POLITICAL POWER!
THEY DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF POWER--
--BUT, BEFORE THIS IS DONE, THEY SHALL LEARN--!
EH? SOMEONE OUTSIDE MY DOOR--?!?
THE BATMAN!?! IS THERE NOWHERE ON EARTH I CAN GO TO ESCAPE YOU?
YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, TWO-FACE!
NOW WHAT SAY YOU COME ALONG QUIETLY?
WHAT I SAY IS--
END OF THE LINE, TWO-FACE--YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
FARADAY, TOO?
WELL, I'M AFRAID YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT YOUR TURN!
TWO-FACE IS MY PRISONER, FARADAY-- I'M TAKING HIM IN FOR MURDER!
THE DEVIL YOU ARE, BATMAN--HE'S MINE!
I'M ARRESTING TWO-FACE FOR TREASON!
A REALLY FASCINATING ARGUMENT, GENTLEMEN--
KLIK
--BUT YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T WAIT AROUND FOR THE OUTCOME!
HUH? A SECRET DOOR--HIDDEN IN THE WALL BEHIND HIM--?!?
TWO-FACE IS GETTING AWAY!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
7

BUT EVEN AS THE DESPERATE LAWMEN LEAP FORWARD...
BLAST! THE PASSAGEWAY IS GONE--!
AND SO IS TWO-FACE!
THE WORKMANSHIP IS FLAWLESS--I CAN'T FIND A SEAM!
BUT THE DOOR HAS TO BE HERE SOMEPLACE--WE SAW IT OPEN!
FARADAY--LISTEN! THAT FAINT WHIRRING--!
BLAZES! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO THIS WHOLE DAMNED ROOM!
WHIRRRR
THE DOOR I ENTERED THROUGH-- IT'S DISAPPEARED!
SO HAS MINE!
WE'RE TRAPPED IN HERE!
AND, IN THE NEXT INCREDIBLE INSTANT...
EH? GLASS RODS-- SPRINGING FROM THE WALL!?
AND THEIR TIPS ARE GLOWING RED!
HIT THE DECK, FARADAY!
ZOW!
THOSE THINGS ARE HEAT-SEEKING LASERS! THEY CAN CUT US IN HALF!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MASKED MAN!
8
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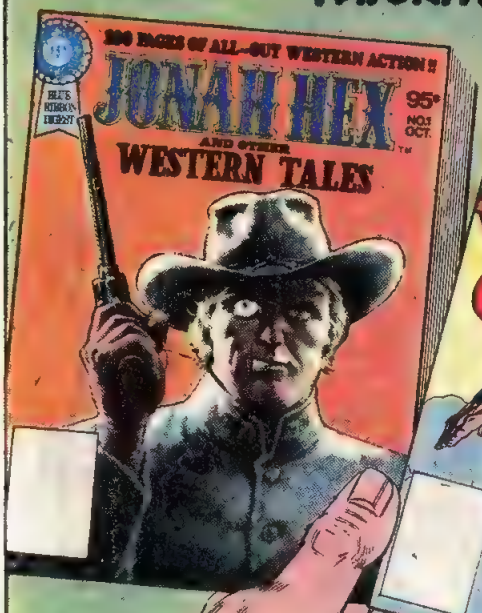

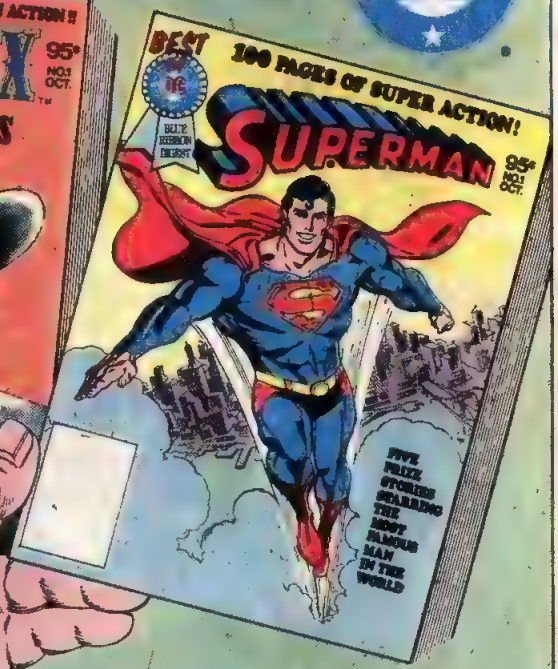

TWO NEW DIGEST-SIZE COMICS:

SUPERMAN-JONAH HEX

ON SALE JUNE 7th

AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND!

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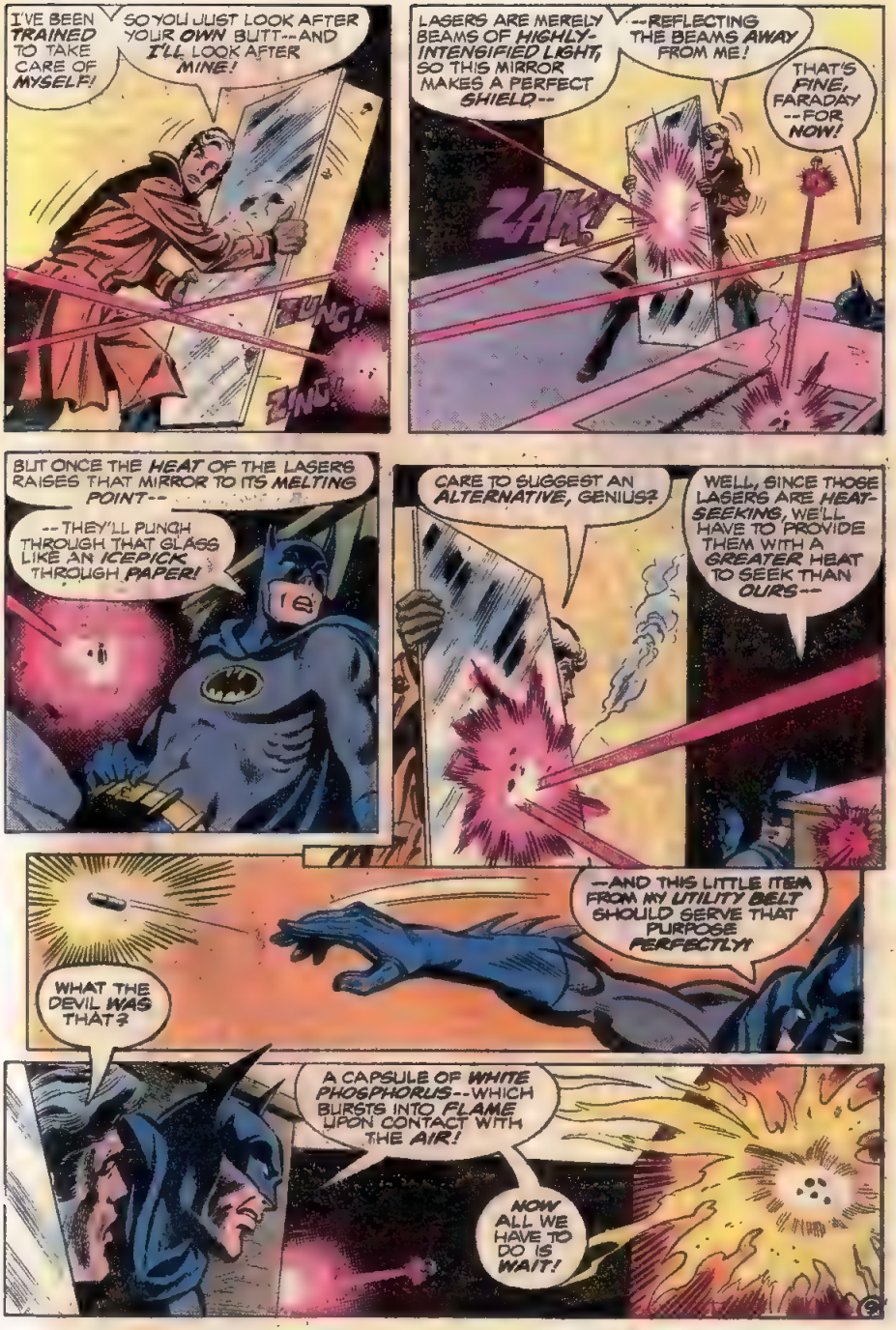
I'VE BEEN TRAINED TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!
SO YOU JUST LOOK AFTER YOUR OWN BUTT--AND I'LL LOOK AFTER MINE!
ZUNG!
ZING!
LASERS ARE MERELY BEAMS OF HIGHLY-INTENSIFIED LIGHT, SO THIS MIRROR MAKES A PERFECT SHIELD--
--REFLECTING THE BEAMS AWAY FROM ME!
THAT'S FINE, FARADAY --FOR NOW!
ZAK!
BUT ONCE THE HEAT OF THE LASERS RAISES THAT MIRROR TO ITS MELTING POINT--
--THEY'LL PUNCH THROUGH THAT GLASS LIKE AN ICEPICK THROUGH PAPER!
CARE TO SUGGEST AN ALTERNATIVE, GENIUS?
WELL, SINCE THOSE LASERS ARE HEAT-SEEKING, WE'LL HAVE TO PROVIDE THEM WITH A GREATER HEAT TO SEEK THAN OURS--
--AND THIS LITTLE ITEM FROM MY UTILITY BELT SHOULD SERVE THAT PURPOSE PERFECTLY!
WHAT THE DEVIL WAS THAT?
A CAPSULE OF WHITE PHOSPHORUS--WHICH BURSTS INTO FLAME UPON CONTACT WITH THE AIR!
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT!

AND EVEN AS THE BATMAN SPEAKS, THE LASER BEAMS PIVOT AWAY, CONCENTRATING THEIR DEADLY POWER ON THE MINIATURE INFERNO HE HAS CREATED--
--WHILE HE AND KING FARADAY CONCENTRATE ON THEIR ESCAPE!
STILL CAN'T FIND A TRACE OF THAT HIDDEN DOOR--!
BACK OFF, FARADAY-- AND I'LL USE THE EXPLOSIVES FROM MY UTILITY BELT TO BLAST US A NEW ONE!
BUT BEFORE THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE CAN ACT...
EH? NOW WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
YOUR LITTLE FIRE BOMB MUST'VE TRIGGERED THE ALARMS!
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE ANOTHER FIGHT ON OUR--
HEY, IS EVERYBODY OKAY IN HERE?
YOU GUYS ARE LUCKY WE FOUND YOU IN TIME!
THIS OLD TUB IS FILLED WITH THESE SECRET ROOMS-- FROM ITS DAYS AS A GAMBLING BOAT!
HOW'D YOU TWO GET TRAPPED IN HERE, ANYWAY?
IF WE TOLD YOU, FRIEND--YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE US!
STOP WASTING TIME --TWO-FACE MAY STILL BE ON BOARD!
BUT AFTER A RAPID SEARCH OF THE SMOKING VESSEL...
NOT A SIGN OF HIM! WE'VE JUST BLOWN OUR ONLY SHOT AT NAILING THAT PSYCHO BEFORE HE CAN SELL THE BINARY CODE!
MAYBE NOT, FARADAY--WE MAY STILL HAVE A CHANCE!
I GRABBED THIS SCRAP OF PAPER FROM HIS DESK! IT'S COVERED WITH DOODLES-- INCLUDING SEVERAL THAT LOOK LIKE A CROWN ON WHEELS!
I SINCERELY HOPE SO!
IF THAT MEANS WHAT I THINK IT DOES--WE'VE GOT HIM!
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CONTINUED ON 57TH PAGE FOLLOWING

Pete Rose
BATTING PRACTICE
©1979 TURCO MANUFACTURING COMPANY
HEY PETE! WHATS THE SECRET? HOW DID YOU GET TO BE SUCH A GREAT BATTER?
PRACTICE, BOBBY. PRACTICE IS THE KEY TO MY SUCCESS IN BASEBALL.
AND NOW YOU CAN LEARN TO BE A WINNER WITH PETE ROSE BATTING PRACTICE!
JUST TWIST IT IN...
PULL THE ADJUSTABLE SUPER-STRETCH CORD...
AND PITCH! HIGH, LOW, FAST OR SLOW!
WHACK!
INCLUDES GROUND ANCHOR, AUTOGRAPHED RUBBER BASEBALL, SUPER-STRETCH CORD.
BASE HIT!
AND NO MORE LOST BALLS!
SEE BOBBY, WITH ENOUGH PRACTICE YOU COULD BE SETTING RECORDS JUST LIKE ME!
LEARN TO PLAY LIKE THE PROS WITH
Pete Rose BATTING PRACTICE
Look for it in the toy and sporting goods section of your favorite store.
Turco
MANUFACTURING COMPANY
BATTING PRACTICE

GET INTO THE WAR--

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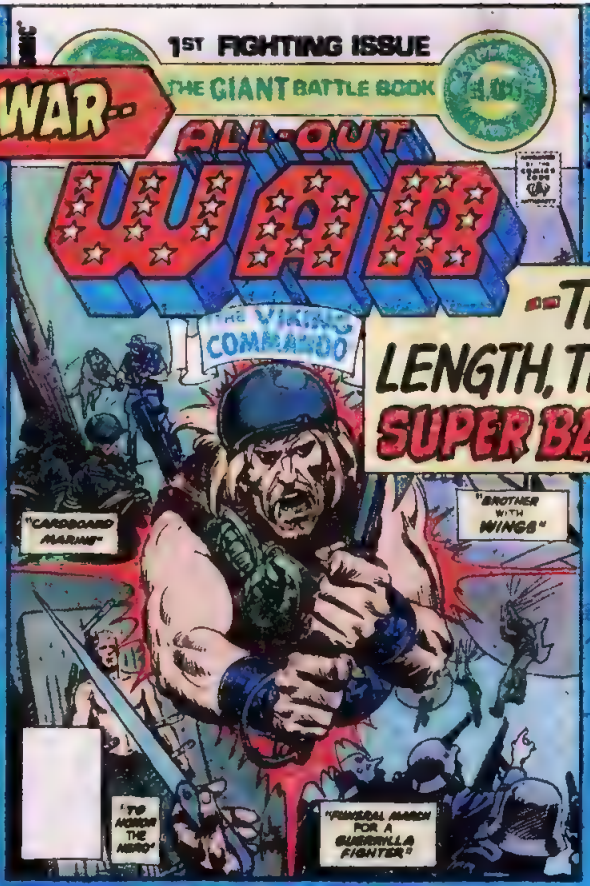
- "Brother with Wings"
- "Funeral March for a Guerrilla Fighter"
- "Cardboard Marine"
- "To Honor the Hero"



1ST FIGHTING ISSUE ON SALE JUNE 7th!

--THE TRIPLE-LENGTH, TRIPLE-ACTION SUPER BATTLE BOOK!

GO REAL! YOU CAN SMELL THE STENCH OF CORDITE, HEAR THE HOWL OF HOWITZERS, TASTE THE GORE AND GRIME OF BATTLE!

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Remember How Many Times You Felt *Left Out*

Because You Were BROKE!

Places the gang was going and you weren't included. They all had money for movies, games, hamburgers and soft drinks . . . all of them except you.

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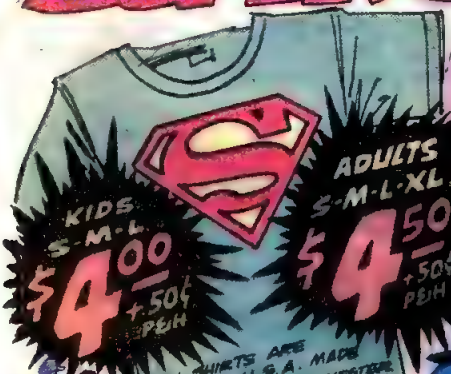

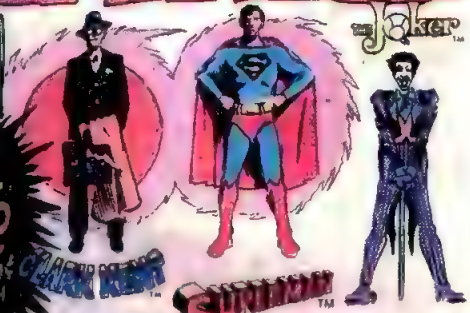

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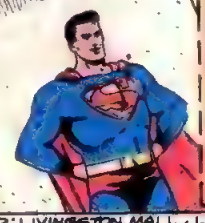

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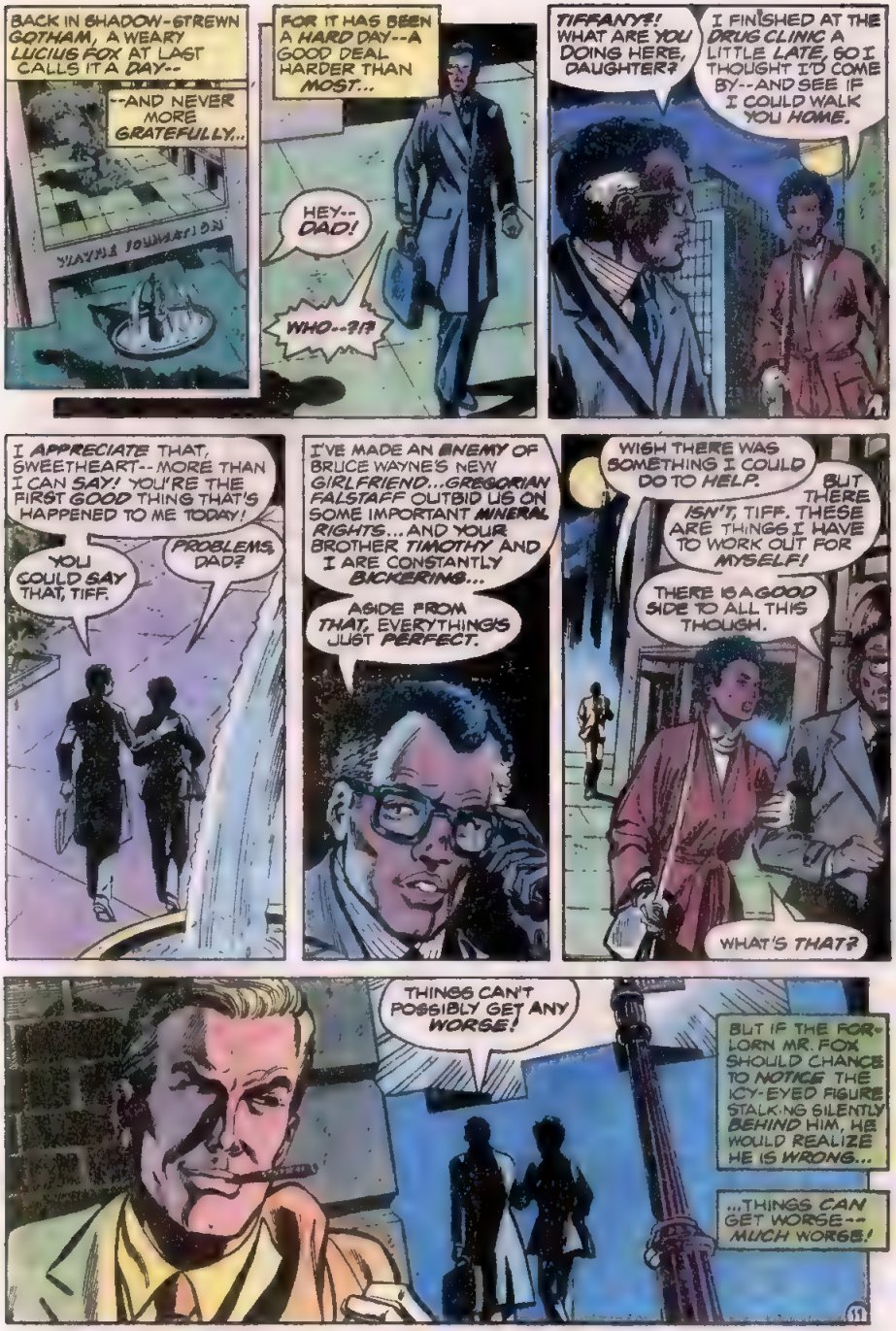

BACK IN SHADOW-STREWN GOTHAM, A WEARY LUCIUS FOX AT LAST CALLS IT A DAY--
--AND NEVER MORE GRATEFULLY...
WAYNE FOUNDATION
FOR IT HAS BEEN A HARD DAY--A GOOD DEAL HARDER THAN MOST...
HEY-- DAD!
WHO--?!?
TIFFANY?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, DAUGHTER?
I FINISHED AT THE DRUG CLINIC A LITTLE LATE, SO I THOUGHT I'D COME BY--AND SEE IF I COULD WALK YOU HOME.
I APPRECIATE THAT, SWEETHEART--MORE THAN I CAN SAY! YOU'RE THE FIRST GOOD THING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME TODAY!
YOU COULD SAY THAT, TIFF.
PROBLEMS, DAD?
I'VE MADE AN ENEMY OF BRUCE WAYNE'S NEW GIRLFRIEND...GREGORIAN FALSTAFF OUTBID US ON SOME IMPORTANT MINERAL RIGHTS...AND YOUR BROTHER TIMOTHY AND I ARE CONSTANTLY BICKERING...
ASIDE FROM THAT, EVERYTHING'S JUST PERFECT.
WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO TO HELP.
BUT THERE ISN'T, TIFF. THESE ARE THINGS I HAVE TO WORK OUT FOR MYSELF!
THERE IS A GOOD SIDE TO ALL THIS THOUGH.
WHAT'S THAT?
THINGS CAN'T POSSIBLY GET ANY WORSE!
BUT IF THE FORLORN MR. FOX SHOULD CHANCE TO NOTICE THE ICY-EYED FIGURE STALKING SILENTLY BEHIND HIM, HE WOULD REALIZE HE IS WRONG...
...THINGS CAN GET WORSE--MUCH WORSE!

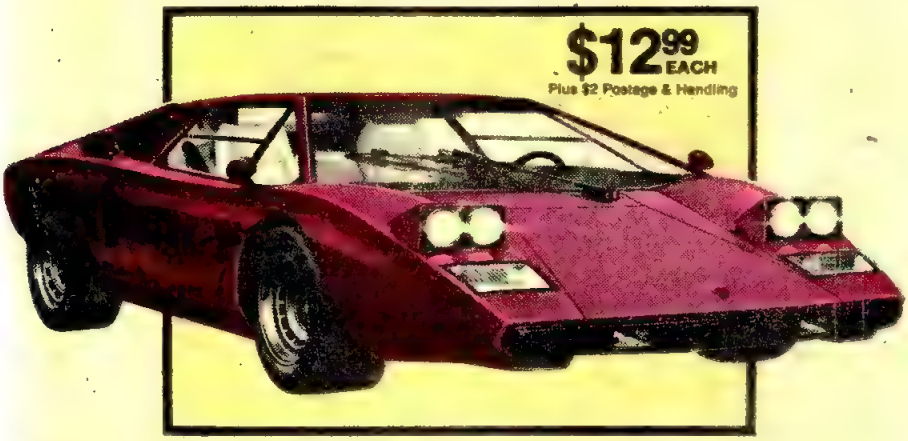
THE LIGHTS OF BOURBON STREET GLOW BRIGHTLY TONIGHT, AS THE COLORFUL MARDI GRAS PARADE WINDS JOYFULLY PAST ITS ORNATE LACELIKE GALLERIES--
CHEW DOUBLE-CHEW GUM
--WHILE ABOARD ONE OF THE GAILY-DRAPED FLOATS...
I SIMPLY ADORE NEW ORLEANS! I CAN WALK ABOUT HERE UNMOLESTED--
--SINCE EVERY-ONE THINKS MY HORRIBLE COUNTENANCE IS MERELY A MASK!
WILL YOU PLEASE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, TWO-FACE?
DA, I FEEL LIKE A FOOL IN THIS RIDICULOUS COSTUME!
IN THAT CASE, GENTLEMEN-- THE TIME HAS COME!
A FLIP OF THE COIN --AND IT WILL BE DECIDED!
WHICH SIDE WILL WIN? THE CLEAN SIDE? THE SCARRED SIDE?
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? IT APPEARS TO HAVE LANDED ON EDGE!
BAH! YOU CAUGHT THE COIN IN THE SPACE BETWEEN YOUR FINGERS!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, TWO-FACE?
OBVIOUSLY, GENTLEMEN-- IT MEANS THAT I WIN!
NO-- WAIT!
TWO-FACE-- COME BACK!!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

REMOTE CONTROLLED CAR WITH LIGHT

LAMBORGHINI 1/20 SCALE COUNTACH

THE ULTIMATE SUPER SPORTS CAR KIT



OPERATING HEADLIGHTS AND TAILLIGHTS WITH WINK—ING FEATURE ■ MOTOR DRIVEN POWER STEERING ■ CAR HAS TWO POWERFUL ELECTRIC MOTORS ■ FORWARD AND REVERSE SHIFT LEVER AND STEERING WHEEL ON CONTROL BOX ■ TURNS LEFT AND RIGHT ■ REQUIRES BATTERIES (NOT INCLUDED) ■ HEAVY CONSTRUCTION DETAILED MODEL KIT WITH GLUE INCLUDED ■

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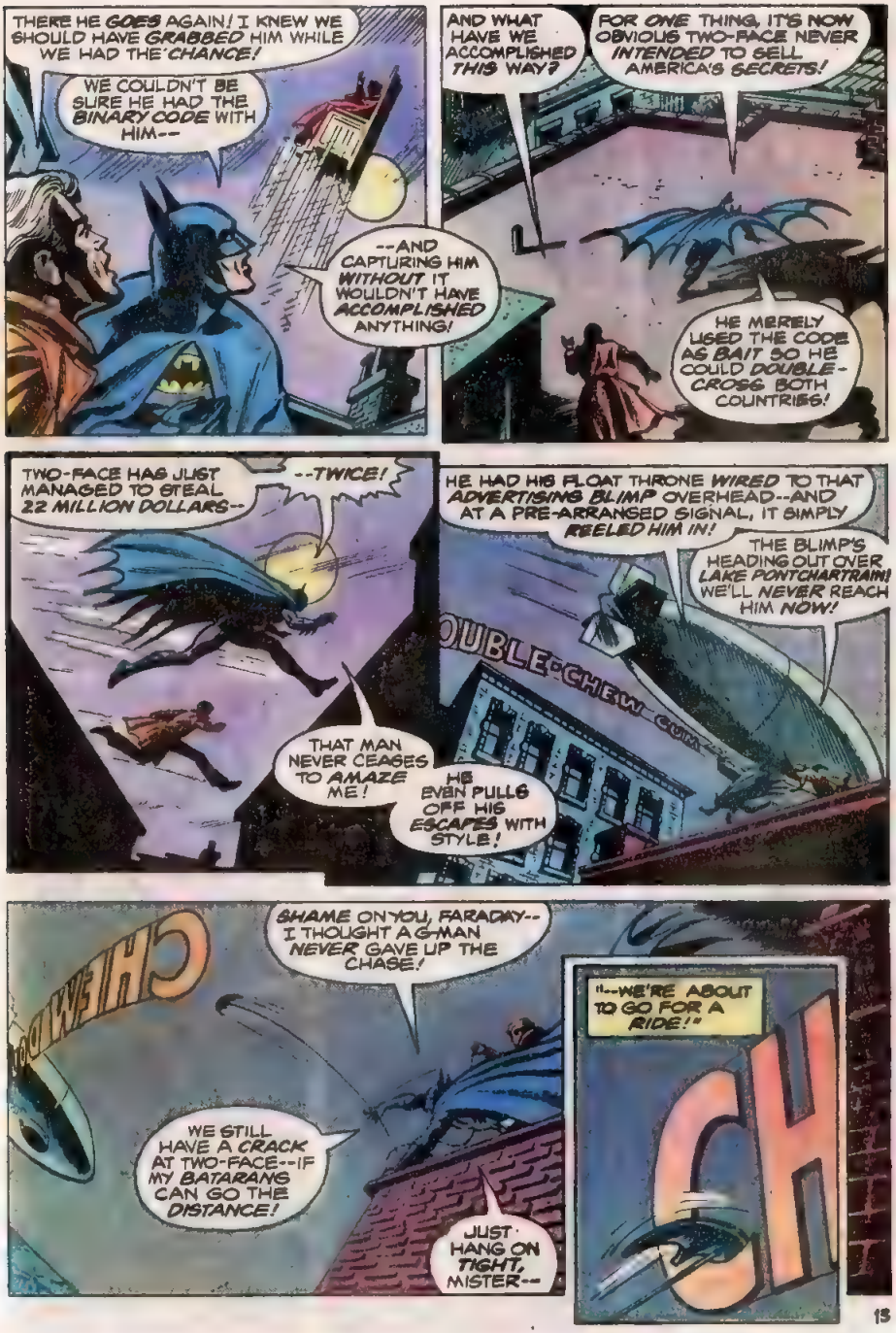
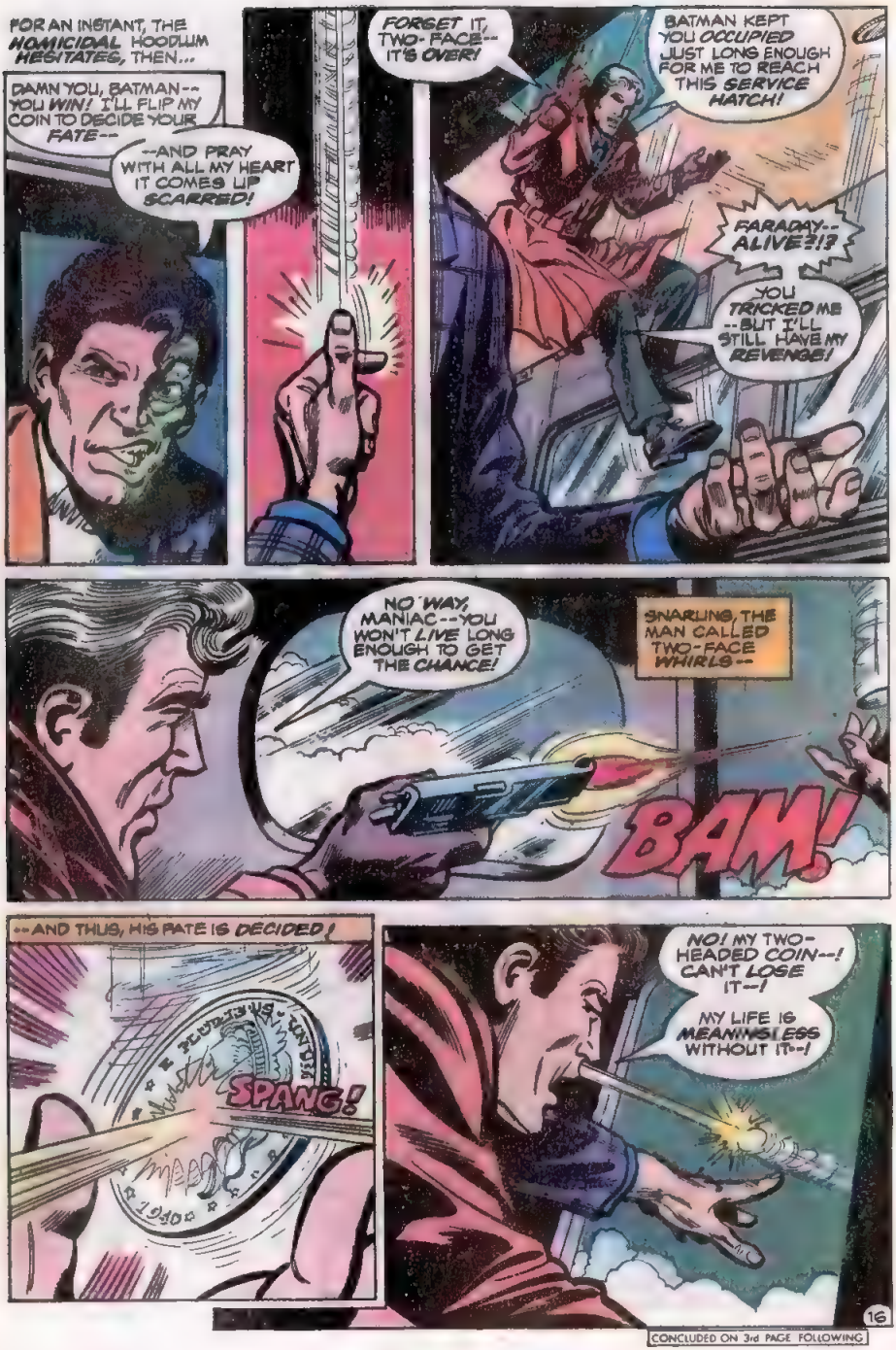
PLEASE DO NOT REVEAL THE SENSES-SHATTERING *SHOCK ENDING!*

A TALE SO GIGANTIC IT REQUIRED *EXTRA PAGES* TO DO IT JUSTICE!


THERE HE GOES AGAIN! I KNEW WE SHOULD HAVE GRABBED HIM WHILE WE HAD THE CHANCE!
WE COULDN'T BE SURE HE HAD THE BINARY CODE WITH HIM--
--AND CAPTURING HIM WITHOUT IT WOULDN'T HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING!
AND WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED THIS WAY?
FOR ONE THING, IT'S NOW OBVIOUS TWO-FACE NEVER INTENDED TO SELL AMERICA'S SECRETS!
HE MERELY USED THE CODE AS BAIT SO HE COULD DOUBLE-CROSS BOTH COUNTRIES!
TWO-FACE HAS JUST MANAGED TO STEAL 22 MILLION DOLLARS--
--TWICE!
THAT MAN NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME!
HE EVEN PULLS OFF HIS ESCAPES WITH STYLE!
HE HAD HIS FLOAT THRONE WIRED TO THAT ADVERTISING BLIMP OVERHEAD--AND AT A PRE-ARRANGED SIGNAL, IT SIMPLY REELED HIM IN!
THE BLIMP'S HEADING OUT OVER LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN! WE'LL NEVER REACH HIM NOW!
DOUBLE-CHEW GUM
SHAME ON YOU, FARADAY-- I THOUGHT A G-MAN NEVER GAVE UP THE CHASE!
WE STILL HAVE A CRACK AT TWO-FACE--IF MY BATARANG CAN GO THE DISTANCE!
JUST HANG ON TIGHT, MISTER--
"--WE'RE ABOUT TO GO FOR A RIDE!"
CH

CLIMB QUICKLY, FARADAY--I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THAT BATARANG WILL HOLD!
CHEW DOUBLE CHEW GUM
I'M RIGHT ON YOUR TAIL, MASKED MAN--AND GAINING!
IN POINT OF FACT, YOU'VE BEEN IN MY WAY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS, BATMAN!
JUST A FEW MINUTES MORE, FARADAY--
--AND YOU MAY NEVER HAVE TO LOOK AT ME AGAIN!
WHILE INSIDE THE BLIMP'S CONTROL GONDOLA...
I'VE DONE IT, BRACKET--
--STOLEN A FORTUNE ENOUGH FOR TWO LIFETIMES!
DON'T PAT YERSELF ON THE BACK TOO SOON, BOSS! WE GOT US A COUPL'A GUYS CLIMBIN' ALONG THE ADVERTISIN' BANNER!
THE BATMAN AND FARADAY AGAIN! DON'T THOSE TWO EVER QUIT?
QUICKLY, BRACKET--JETTISON THE BANNER!
ANYTHIN' YOU SAY, BOSS!
CLICK!
AT LAST, I'M RID OF THEM!
NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW, BRACKET! ABSOLUTELY--
--NOTHING?
CRASH!

THE FREE RIDE IS OVER, TWO-FACE!
IT'S TIME YOU CAME BACK DOWN TO EARTH!
THAT MAY WELL BE, BATMAN--
UNNNFF!!
--BUT I PROMISE YOU'LL BE THERE A LONG TIME BEFORE ME!
IMPACT MADE ME LOSE MY GRIP--!
HAVE TO MOVE FAST--!
HANGING ON BY MY FINGERTIPS-- BUT I CAN'T LAST LONG!
GOODBYE, BATMAN-- GIVE MY REGARDS TO THE LATE MR. FARADAY!
TWO-FACE --WAIT! ARE YOU GOING TO CONDEMN ME TO DEATH WITHOUT A TRIAL?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU JABBERING ABOUT?
GIVE ME A CHANCE --FLIP YOUR LUCKY COIN!
IF THE SCARRED SIDE COMES UP, KILL ME-- IF IT COMES UP CLEAN, PULL ME IN!
NO! YOU'VE BEEN A THORN IN MY SIDE FOR TOO LONG! YOU HAVE TO DIE!
THEN GO AHEAD AND STEP ON MY FINGERS, TWO-FACE--
--AND PROVE THAT EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER CLAIMED TO BELIEVE IN IS A LIE!


FOR AN INSTANT, THE HOMICIDAL HOODLUM HESITATES, THEN...
DAMN YOU, BATMAN--YOU WIN! I'LL FLIP MY COIN TO DECIDE YOUR FATE--
--AND PRAY WITH ALL MY HEART IT COMES UP SCARRED!
FORGET IT, TWO-FACE--IT'S OVER!
BATMAN KEPT YOU OCCUPIED JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO REACH THIS SERVICE HATCH!
FARADAY--ALIVE?!?
YOU TRICKED ME--BUT I'LL STILL HAVE MY REVENGE!
NO WAY, MANIAC--YOU WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GET THE CHANCE!
SNARLING, THE MAN CALLED TWO-FACE WHIRLS--
BAM!
--AND THUS, HIS FATE IS DECIDED!
SPANG!
NO! MY TWO-HEADED COIN--! CAN'T LOSE IT--!
MY LIFE IS MEANINGLESS WITHOUT IT--!
16
CONCLUDED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

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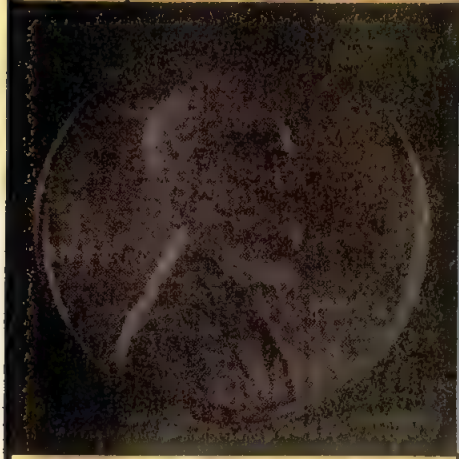

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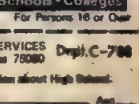

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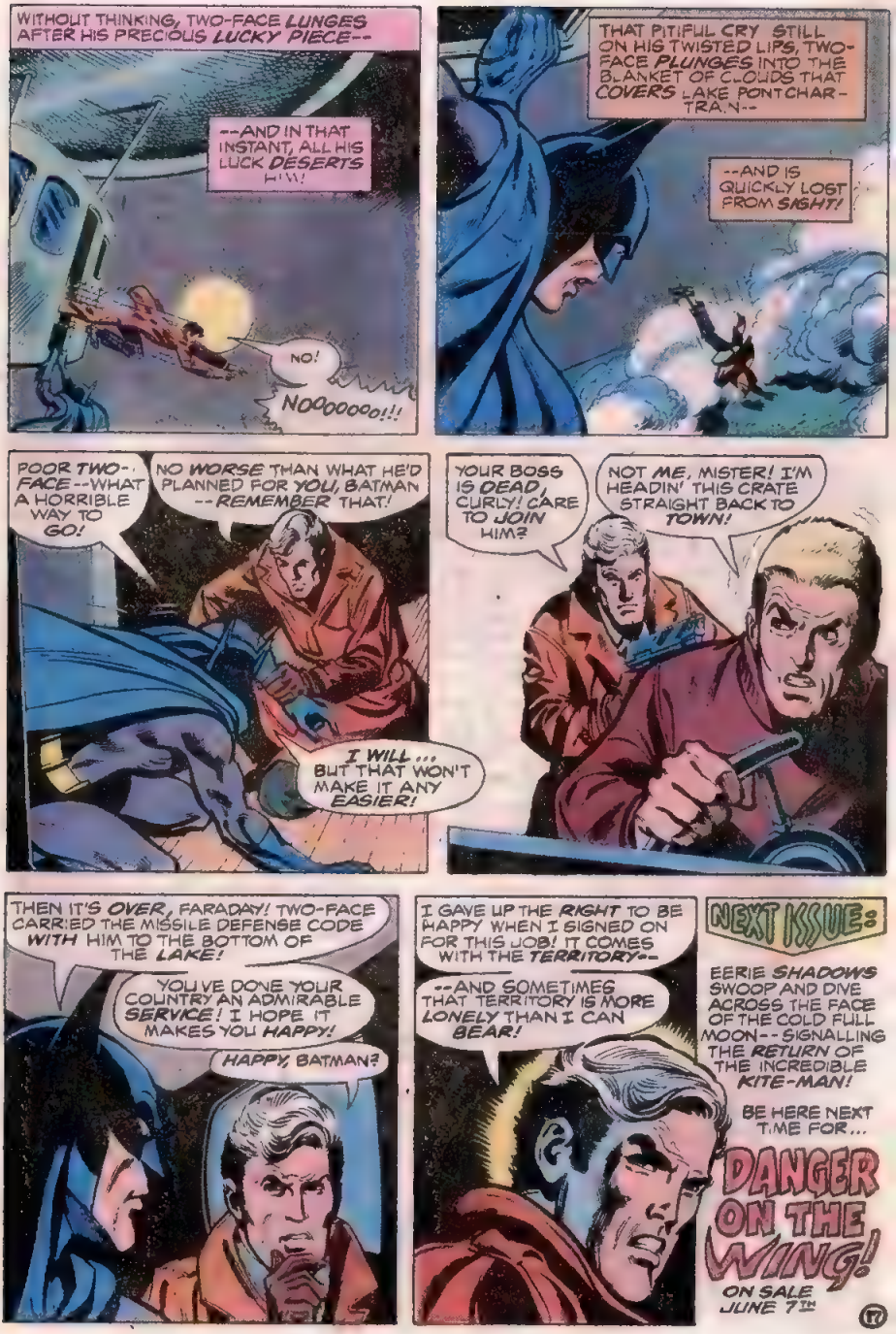

WITHOUT THINKING, TWO-FACE LUNGES AFTER HIS PRECIOUS LUCKY PIECE--
--AND IN THAT INSTANT, ALL HIS LUCK DESERTS HIM!
NO!
NOOOOOOO!!!
THAT PITIFUL CRY STILL ON HIS TWISTED LIPS, TWO-FACE PLUNGES INTO THE BLANKET OF CLOUDS THAT COVERS LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN--
--AND IS QUICKLY LOST FROM SIGHT!
POOR TWO-FACE--WHAT A HORRIBLE WAY TO GO!
NO WORSE THAN WHAT HE'D PLANNED FOR YOU, BATMAN --REMEMBER THAT!
I WILL... BUT THAT WON'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER!
YOUR BOSS IS DEAD, CURLY! CARE TO JOIN HIM?
NOT ME, MISTER! I'M HEADIN' THIS CRATE STRAIGHT BACK TO TOWN!
THEN IT'S OVER, FARADAY! TWO-FACE CARRIED THE MISSILE DEFENSE CODE WITH HIM TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE!
YOU'VE DONE YOUR COUNTRY AN ADMIRABLE SERVICE! I HOPE IT MAKES YOU HAPPY!
HAPPY, BATMAN?
I GAVE UP THE RIGHT TO BE HAPPY WHEN I SIGNED ON FOR THIS JOB! IT COMES WITH THE TERRITORY--
--AND SOMETIMES THAT TERRITORY IS MORE LONELY THAN I CAN BEAR!
NEXT ISSUE:
EERIE SHADOWS SWOOP AND DIVE ACROSS THE FACE OF THE COLD FULL MOON--SIGNALLING THE RETURN OF THE INCREDIBLE KITE-MAN!
BE HERE NEXT TIME FOR...
DANGER ON THE WING!
ON SALE JUNE 7TH

Dear Paul and Len:

Len Wein at times has a tendency to get almost maudlin—but I suppose that's very appropriate for a Christmas story such as this one. It *was* touching—the search for the near-suicide, Kathy, the *Blockbuster*'s concern for her and all that. I admit I had my doubts about the *Blockbuster* fitting in well with the current incarnation of *The Batman*, but he worked extremely well this time out. There was no true villain, which would have irked me in any other story (I admit I like *someone* to hate) but was fitting for a Christmas story. John Calnan's art was better than its usual standards, although I think Giordano is a much better inker for Calnan than McLaughlin—Giordano has all the detail and mood that Calnan's pencils lack, and together they make a very fine team. I was pleased that Wein restored *Blockbuster*'s muteness—the childlike speech he had in the *Secret Society of Super-Villains* was too *Hulk*-like. (I kind of wish there had been some sort of explanation—or at least reference to—the fact that *Blockbuster* was last seen on Earth-Two, part of the *Secret Society*, though. If nothing else than an editor's note saying, "Note to continuity freaks: we'll explain how *Blockbuster* got back to Earth-One some other time, folks. Honest!") But altogether, rather nice, handled with a good deal of sensitivity.

Paul, good luck as new editor. It's tough stepping into Julie's shoes, but I have enjoyed many of your works, both writing and editing, and have few qualms about what's coming. Your takeover of *Brave and Bold* has, if anything, improved the mag, and I certainly expect no letdown here.

But it is kind of funny. You just got through killing the Earth-Two *Batman*, and then you're made the chief editor for all the *Batman* mags...

Al Schroeder III
3606 Richland Avenue
Nashville, Tenn. 37205

The whole Secret Society crew has caused a few continuity problems up and down the line, but the safest thing to do is just assume that this story took place prior to that series. As for killing the Batmen and ending up his editor, let's say that's simply one of life's stranger ironies.—PL

*****

Dear Editor,

I must admit that when I saw the cover of #309 I thought that the person to perish would be the un-named female victim since *The Batman* (obviously) and the *Blockbuster* were too valuable to sacrifice. And I still feel that way since it's clear that the *Blockbuster* didn't really die in the icy river. He should easily survive that given his incredible physical prowess. So let's keep the cover hype truthful.

The other disappointing aspect of the issue was the art by Calnan and McLaughlin. It was pretty crude—figures were often ill-proportioned (for instance, *Batman* in panel 3 page 11 looks like a fat midget), action scenes seemed static, and the inking was often heavy-handed. Thus, the usual feel (dark and forbidding) that is needed for a *Batman* story of this nature to be successful was missing.

This book has had a fairly good standard lately (with the exception of #306) but this issue was a total washout. Let's hope that things improve next month.

Unsigned

Yours was the only notably negative letter we received on #309, so we have to put you to the test of your peers. For instance, our next correspondent...—PL

*****

Dear Editor:

And a Happy New Year to all you people connected with *Batman* #309, but most especially Len Wein. With "Have Yourself A Deadly Little Christmas" you've given us a Christmas classic to rank right up there with Mike Friedrich's "Silent Night Of The Batman" way back in *Batman* #219. All that was missing to make it a perfect Christmas present would be art by the long-absent Mr. Adams (not that I'm knocking John Calnan - I've rarely seen him do better, although I'm afraid that's not saying much), who, unfortunately, seems to be once more wrapped up in yet another cause and doesn't want to draw anything for us poor deprived comic consumers to drool over anymore. Sigh.

Back to the point though: Len's script. Obviously he's working on two levels here. On the first we find the *Batman-Blockbuster* conflict with the life of Kathy Crawford at stake. But on a second, more significant level, it is the life of Kathy Crawford itself that forms the basis of his script. She seeks to abandon her life, while *Batman*, the master of his own life, and the *Blockbuster*, a victim of life, both strive to save her.

Kathy Crawford, like so many young people today, is sure there is no point to living any longer and seeks death. Len's clearly attempting to point out that this is not right. As Kathy Crawford discovers, there are people that care. All one has to do is find them, something that can't be accomplished by killing oneself. If Len's story can make even one potential young suicide reconsider their actions before it's too late then it is elevated beyond a mere comic classic into something far greater, for it can aid in giving a young life new hope and purpose where none seemingly existed before. What more could an author hope to accomplish, especially at Christmas?

In closing, I'd like to say goodbye to Julie Schwartz, the man who has edited so many *Batman* classics over the thirteen years I've been reading his magazines. It just won't be the same without you.

Jan Tamblyn
No Address Given

Please, no farewells here. Julie remains ensconsed next door with our friend with the big red "S", and we heartily recommend you follow him to his latest assignment—WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, where he's sure to give Batman all the tender loving care he deserves.—PL.

*****

Next month: The return of a Batman villain from the fifties, and a look at a day in the life of Bruce Wayne and his darknight alter-ego. Be with us for a special tale by Len Wein and Irv Novick, and in the thirty days twixt now and then, watch out for two-headed coins.—Paul Levitz.

EXTRA DAILY PLANET™ EXTRA

VOLUME 79 ISSUE 19 WEEK OF MAY 7, 1979 BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

SWAMP THING MEETS BATMAN!

DOLLAR COMIC SPECIAL REPRESENTS THREE CLASSIC TALES! (DC, New York)—The classic story in which *Swamp Thing* met *The Batman* is only one of the three fabulous stories in *THE ORIGINAL SWAMP THING SAGA* Dollar Comic out this month!

In the first story of this superb collection, *Swamp Thing* encounters "The Last of the Ravenwind Witches"—and a town full of superstitious people bent on burning her at the stake!

Then we switch from supernatural to shocking science fiction as *Swamp Thing* stumbles upon an entire village populated by lifelike human robots in "A Clockwork Horror!"

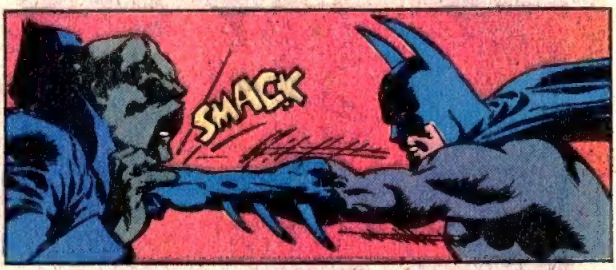
Finally, *Swamp Thing* meets *The Batman* in an eerie mystery tale which was voted "Favorite Story" in the 1973 Comic Art Fan Awards—"Night of the Bat!"

Don't miss the third annual collection of the award-winning *Swamp Thing* series by Len Wein and Berni Wrightson! Be sure to get your copy of *THE ORIGINAL SWAMP THING SAGA* when it goes on sale the week of May 21st!

BOMBS AND BRACELETS!? (West Point Military Academy)—A mysterious saboteur siezes remote control of the army's most advanced combat equipment and uses it against *Wonder Woman* in a treacherous plot to kill General Bradford of West Point!

But while the Amazing Amazon battles to save the general, the saboteur sends a jet fighter into a screaming kamikaze dive into the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plants—threatening an explosion that will annihilate millions of innocent people!

Paul Levitz and Paul Kupperberg, writers, and Jose Delbo and Vince Colletta, artists, provide the pulse-pounding suspense in "The Long Grey Line...of Death" when *WONDER WOMAN* #258 goes on sale the week of May 21st.



DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF MAY 21st

SGT. ROCK #331—Robert Kanigher and Frank Redondo introduce *Rock* to "The Sons of War". Plus: Take "The Last Hill" with Kanigher and Ric Estrada, and wish a "Happy Birthday" to Kanigher and Tom Yeates.

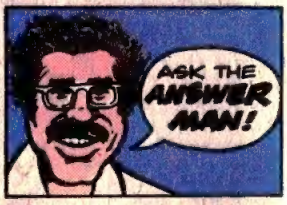
SUPERBOY & THE LEGION #264—Five *Legionnaires* are dead and the remaining members find "A Madman Shall Lead Them" in this Gerry Conway/Joe Staton collaboration.

SUPER FRIENDS #23—The *Super Friends* get an "SOS From Nowhere" from E. Nelson Bridwell, Ramona Fradon and Bob Smith.

WARLORD #24—Listen to the "Song of Ligia" with the Warlord and Mike Grell and Vince Colletta.

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:

BATMAN #314 / *DETECTIVE COMICS* #485 / *DC COMICS PRESENTS* #12 (*Superman* and *Mr. Miracle*) / *THE FLASH* #276 / *GHOSTS* #79 / *G.I. COMBAT* #215 / *JONAH HEX* #27 / *JUSTICE LEAGUE* #169 / *MEN OF WAR* #19 / *SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE* #15 / *WEIRD WAR TALES* #78 / *WORLD OF KRYPTON* #2 / *WORLD'S FINEST* #258



Q: How did *Black Canary* get from Earth-2 to Earth-1?—John Munro. *A*: When her husband, Larry Lance, was killed aiding the *Justice League* and *Justice Society*, *Canary* decided to go with the *JLA* because Earth-2 held too many memories for her.

Q: When did *Superman* first make it clear that he did not drink?—James DeFoe. *A*: Exactly when he decided I couldn't say, but he has never been a drinker.

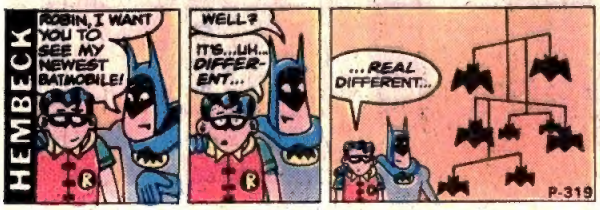
Q: What's happened to *Plastic Man*?—Chris Melton. *A*: If plans go well, the Pliable Policeman will be returning in his own feature in a new Dollar Comic coming this summer.

Q: When did *Hawkman* and *Batman* first appear together?—John Runion. *A*: Their first team-up was in *BRAVE & BOLD* #70.

Q: When will *Superman* and *Batman* team up in *BRAVE & BOLD*?—Bill Williams. *A*: They just did in #150, but you can be seeing them teamed up every month in *WORLD'S FINEST*!

Q: Where did *Supergirl* come from? And *Krypto*?—Mark Biedrzyck. *A*: *Supergirl* was born in Argo City, which survived the explosion of Krypton when the entire city was flung intact into space. Later, when the city was being destroyed by meteors, her parents sent her to Earth. *Krypto* was baby Kal-El's dog who was sent into space by Jor-El in an experimental capsule. When it was knocked out of orbit, it shot off into space and eventually turned up on Earth with the pup intact!

Q: How far can *Plastic Man* stretch his arms?—Sean Gibson. *A*: Maybe we'll find out his limits in the series mentioned above.



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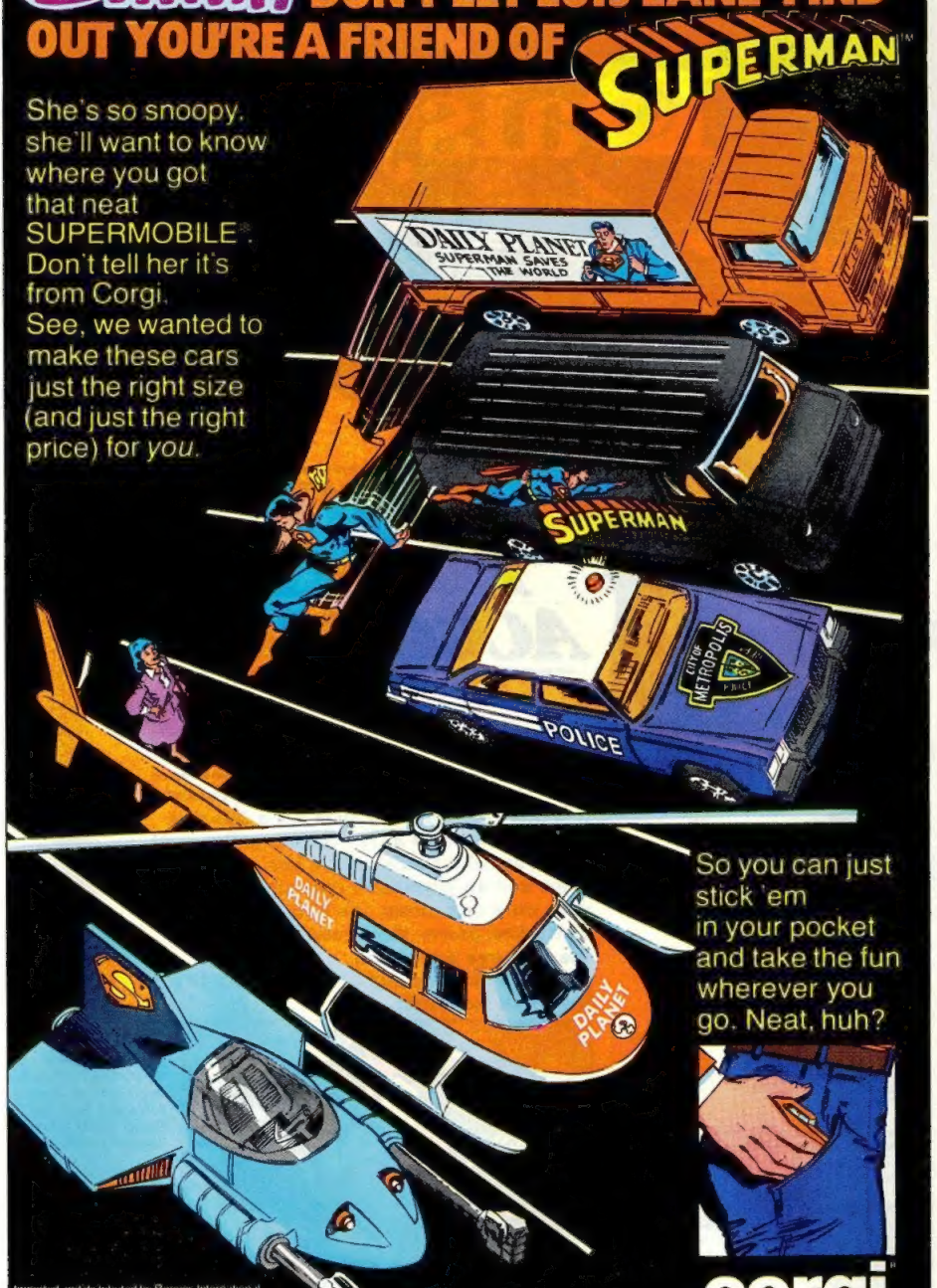

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